

The logo for 'be MCC' features the text 'be' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by 'MCC' in a larger, white, uppercase, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark purple circular background. This circle is positioned on a red and black diagonal background.

Metropolitan Community Churches

TRANSFORMING OURSELVES AS WE TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

A newsletter from Central Texas MCC

April 2017

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The Pastor's Pen

I'm finally getting taken care of that protrusion from my stomach you may have noticed. Yes, I'm overweight, but no, the protrusion is not weight; it's a hernia. The surgery will be taking place on Tuesday, April 25. I tell you this because I'm going to be moving rather slowly for several days after the surgery and will be unable to lift very much weight for several days after the surgery. So this will be an opportunity for you to step up and help out, something for which I would be very grateful!

For instance, you may want to help Danny Colburn, who has agreed deliver groceries from our HIV pantry during that period. It probably won't be many deliveries, since it's close to the end of the month. So if you come to the office during its hours (2-5PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays), you may want to be prepared to read a book or surf the internet.

Another way you can help: Sam and David Cathey have already agreed to start helping me out by mowing on the weekends. Why not give them a hand, so they aren't stuck with mowing the church and the parking lot all on their own?

Here's another way you can help on Sunday mornings. On most Sunday mornings, I haul the projector and amplifier from the church office up to the sanctuary, then bring it back down after worship. Can you get to church by 10AM to help me set up for worship? Or can you help out by toting the equipment back down to the church office?

If you can help out in any of these areas, I would appreciate it! Just let me know next time you see me or email me at centexmcc@earthlink.net.

Peace and blessings,
Charley

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The following is a tentative list of upcoming church activities and community events. Contact the church for a confirmation of the calendar.

Weekly Events:

- **Central Texas MCC Worship** (1601 Clay Ave.) on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
- **Live and Let Live AA Group** (4209 N. 27th St.) on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 1 – Women’s HIV Support Group join the women who meet at 11:00 a.m. followed by a home-cooked meal in church the Social Hall.

Sunday, April 2 – Lenten Small-Group Study immediately following worship in the Social Hall. Light lunch will be provided.

Sunday, April 9 – Monthly Potluck Social after worship. Good food, good fellowship!

Thursday, April 13 – Book Discussion Group meets at 6:00 p.m. for a sandwich dinner and an informal discussion of “Circling the Sun” by Paula McLain.

Sunday, April 16 – Easter Sunday Worship at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 18 – LGBT Pride Planning Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the church Social Hall.

Thursday, April 20 – Third Thursday HIV Peer Group. If you are HIV+ or if you are the friend, partner, or family member of someone who is, then join us at 6:00 p.m. for a home-cooked meal and an evening of support and connection

Sunday, April 23 – Picnic and Zoo Outing immediately following worship in Cameron Park and Cameron Park Zoo.

Monday, April 24 – Holocaust Remembrance Service at 7:00 p.m. at Congregation Agudath Jacob (4925 Hillcrest Dr.).

Sunday, April 30 – Resisting Racism Workshop immediately following worship in the Social Hall. Light lunch provided.

BIRTHDAYS

The following people have birthdays this month. If you have corrections or additions to the birthday list, please call the office at 752-5331 or email us at centexmcc@earthlink.net.

Johnnie Carson – April 1

Dana Wheeler – April 10

Jeff Martin – April 11

Ronnie Densman – April 11

Carmen Miller – April 25

Tammy Stone – April 26

Linda Lueck – April 28

Picnic and Zoo Outing



Join us on **Sunday, April 23** for some after-worship fun for kids and kids at heart! On that Sunday, dress casually, bring a sack lunch (or pick up some fast food after worship), and join us at Pecan Bottoms for a picnic lunch.

After lunch, if you're up for it, join us for a trip through the beautiful Cameron Park Zoo. Adults(13+) – \$10; Children 4-12 yrs – \$7; Sr. Citizens (60+) – \$9; Children 3 years old and under – free

Resisting Racism



On **Sunday, April 30**, we will resume our monthly Resisting Racism Workshop. This curriculum was developed to create a space for white people interested in being effective allies with people of color in the work of dismantling racism and undoing white privilege. This is a process designed to support people wherever they are on their journey. You don't need to have attended previous sessions in order to attend this one. A light lunch will be provided.

McCARES Is Now a New Church Ministry



McCARES was an organization whose purpose it was to provide emergency funds for people living with HIV. In other words, it was designed to catch people who are falling through the cracks of HIV services.

Here is an example of the sort of work that McCARES does: Recently a Health Dept. caseworker put in a request for a client who has a disconnect notice for an electric bill of \$115. McCARES was able to pay \$75 of the bill, leaving the client to only have to pay \$40, thereby freeing that client up to be able to concentrate on two impending medical bills.

On Friday, March 17, the organization voted to disband as a 501(c)3 organization, choosing instead, to operate as a ministry of Central Texas MCC, with the former board members acting as an advisory committee to MCC's Board of Directors in its continued operation.

With Gratitude to Court of the Central Texas Empire



It's hard to imagine how Central Texas MCC would survive without the support of the Court of the Central Texas Empire! On the evening of Saturday, March 18, we were presented two checks from the Court. The Red Door Pantry received a check for \$4250, and the church's General Fund received a check for \$4250.

That is in addition to the \$2500 given to the church earlier during the year. That is in addition to the vast amount of school supplies collected for kids and grandkids of Waco's HIV community. That is in addition to the Christmas gifts and extra holiday food collected for the HIV community. That is in addition to the monthly donations of food to the Red Door Pantry. Thank you, Court of the Central Texas Empire!

Lenten Study



You are invited to join with others after worship on **Sunday, April 2** for a light lunch and the final Lenten small-group study/discussion, facilitated by Anise Schmidt. The study/discussion is entitled "He Chose the Nails," by Max Lucado.

Easter Lilies



Beginning **Sunday, March 5**, you will have an opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one by making a donation for the Easter lilies that will decorate our church on Easter Sunday (April 16). The money received will go toward the Global Justice Institute.

In December of 2011, the Global Justice Team of MCC became The Global Justice Institute, a separately incorporated 501(c)3 that is housed in the offices of Metropolitan Community Church in New York City. It is passionate about the Gospel as a radical social manifesto and about the belief that Queer rights are human rights. Its work includes projects or partnerships in Pakistan, Malaysia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, parts of the United States, Eastern Europe and parts of Africa.

Easter Worship



Please join us for worship on **Sunday, April 16** at 11:00 a.m.! Help us celebrate the birth of the risen Christ!

Holocaust Remembrance Service



Yom HaShoa or Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed as Israel's day of commemoration for the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust as a result of the actions carried out by Nazi Germany and its accessories, and for the Jewish resistance in that period.

On **Monday, April 24** at 7:00 p.m. there will be a community-wide service taking place at Congregation Agudath Jacob (4925 Hillcrest Dr.). Please take some time from your schedule to attend this important event.

CJ Myers Preaching



I (Pastor Charley) am having minor surgery on Tuesday, April 25, and so will be out of commission on that day and several days thereafter. Fortunately, people are stepping up to the plate to help out in different areas.

One of those people is CJ Myers, our newly elected Lay Delegate, who will be bringing the message on **Sunday, April 30**. I plan to be at church to hear the message, and I'm sure you will be blessed to hear it, too!

PAD Conference`



**MCC Conference for
People of African Descent
Friends & Advocates**

**3-5 August 2017
Crowne Plaza
200 N. 4th Street
St. Louis, Missouri**

www.PADconference.MCCchurch.org



Join others for the 9th MCC People of African Descent, Friends and Advocates Conference (PAD), in St. Louis! At the PAD Conference, you will share in the richness of African American culture, lift your heart in powerful worship and explore what it means to be Grounded in Love. **The MCC PAD Conference really is a welcoming space to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or nationality.**

This year's theme **GROUNDED IN LOVE** reflects the commitment to stand together and firmly upon the foundation of God's love for us – a love that compels us to live with a holy boldness, honors who we are, where we have come from, and that frees us to embrace the deeper places God is calling us to go.

So plan to come, hear, and enjoy all that is the MCC PAD Conference! And take home tools and insights that will make a difference for you, your family, your church, and your communities.

Learn more about PAD here: <http://padconference.mccchurch.org>

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Learn more about the work of Central Texas MCC online at www.centexmcc.com

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